

UNCLASSIFIED

05/23/74

CUBAN

BL006

(Refused to U.S. Secy.
Newman visit.)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA

We are concerned by:

1. ... the brutality and illegality of the state's security system's methods: clandestine midnight raids on homes culminating in one or more person's being taken, often never to be seen or heard from again; interrogation tactics that include electrical shock, beatings; immediate death to persons believed irredeemably implicated in subversion. Are things getting better? Yes, from a quantitative point of view. There are fewer terrorist and subversive targets left. Disappearances still take place however and we know of no policy decision by the Argentine government to forswear these methods.
2. ... the fact that once a person passes into official detention under the "poder ejecutivo nacional" he stands a good chance of remaining there for the foreseeable future, without charges and with no greater amelioration of his situation than acknowledgement to loved ones that he is being held and the fact that, interrogations finished, he probably need not fear planned brutality. How concerned should we still be about this? Things are getting better: lists are published; persons are regularly released; a "right of option" program to leave Argentina has been proclaimed, though fewer than 60 have been allowed to go. (There are some 3,300 PEN prisoners.) Visits by the International Red Cross were resumed in December 1977

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Reason _____

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and this has helped.

3. ... the "mistakes" and the "scandals." Considering Argentina's violent recent history it is likely that many who have been killed or who are being held were in fact terrorists or assisted terrorism. Terrorist fury and the debility of institutions for controlling this must be taken into account in judging the government's culpability -- at least during the first year or so of this government's reign. We know of scores of other cases, however, of persons totally innocent who have been swept into this repressive maelstrom. "Scandals" are similarly impossible to disregard: the disappearance of nuns and others, for example. We believe, however, that these have been numerically insignificant in comparison with the total repression -- although it is these which have captured largest headlines.

Amembassy Buenos Aires
POL:WHHallman
May 23, 1978

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